IT University Travel Report

Dear Student, this is a template – the aim is to inspire other students who may wish to follow in your footsteps. You are free to give your report the shape you want and to go beyond the questions, as long as you cover the information asked for below. You are also very welcome to include pictures and contact information – but you need not. Remember that the report will be made available on the intranet.

Host University: Auckland University of Technology

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Innovation & Management

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Exchange Agreement

Courses studied abroad: Organising Creative People, Contemporary Creative Organisation and Entrepreneurial Strategies

Exchange Period: semester (autumn/spring) _Spring_______ year _2015_____

Your stay abroad

What was it like to study at [the university] (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)?

I enjoyed the facilities of the university at AUT very much. It’s all quite modern with many places for post-grad students to study. I especially spent a lot of time in Colab (a joint venture between creative technologies) and Communication master thesis students. My courses were all somewhat interesting although the academic level in 2 of them (OCP and ES) were not satisfactory. The social life, however, was remarkable!
What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?

My initial motivation was to test myself, my skills and my limits in a foreign academic environment before returning to Copenhagen and finishing my master thesis. I would say that the experience has far surpassed anything I could hope for. I feel so lucky to have been granted this opportunity to study abroad in Auckland, New Zealand.

Please describe what you got out of your stay, both personally and academically, and how do you expect it to contribute to your further studies?

Academically, seeing as the level wasn’t that high, I’m not bringing back anything ground-breaking. I did however, in OOC, get acquainted with some theories on creative constraints, creativity in practice and discussions on defining the creative industries that I would never have come across. All of which are important and interesting for my master thesis. Personally, starting over in a new academic context with many new people on the other side of Earth, has been an eye opener for me and my potential.

Arranging your stay

Please give a short description of the process of arranging your stay:

Through ITU’s events on going abroad I gathered all the information needed to pursue my exchange on my own. It takes quite some time getting to know how the different universities work, how to finance everything and exactly what you are going to study and why. It’s all a reflective process that puts your own situation in a context I hadn’t been exposed to before.

What resources did you find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use (if any)?

ITU’s events and staff. They have provided me with all the information I needed and been open, friendly and a solid partner in making the exchange happen.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

Somebody actually advised me not to arrange anything beforehand, so it was all done as soon as I set my foot on New Zealand soil. That might not have been the smartest move, but it turned out alright for me. 😊 I wouldn’t recommend it though. It’s quite risky.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

New Zealand (and Auckland in particular) is a very expensive city to live in. I have saved quite a bit of money from my years of working and without them I would have had to borrow money. I think it’s
hard to go abroad in any “cheap” fashion as you are there to experience stuff (especially in New Zealand), although some of the extreme sports and trips could have been cut out of the budget. But then again, those were some of the most interesting experiences I’ve had all of my life. Bottom line: it’s expensive, but it’s worth it!

Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?

Oh, yes... I have spent months on scholarships to finance my trip to New Zealand. I have written around 50 scholarship applications (that was applicable for me and within deadline) and only 1 of them granted me any funds. Compared to some of my fellow students this exchange rate is extremely low. There seem to be a very big difference between what is being granted although we come from the same study line.

Recommendations for other students:

DO IT! It’s quite simple. Besides moving to another country and developing yourself, your skill set and academic level, it’s an absolutely brilliant opportunity to travel WITHOUT lacking behind everyone else. You are seeing the world, experiencing stuff you would never have otherwise, and at the same time gaining ECTS points and doing your school work.